

(a) Amendments to Description

[0005] Figure 1 shows a typical prior art punch. The punch rod 101 is retained by a coil spring 301, ~~and contains a sharpened lower end 101.~~ The punch die 140 resides in a lower assembly 120 and is coaxially aligned with the guide 280 which constrains the vertical movement of the punch rod. A handle 160 provides mechanical advantage to push down on the top of the punch rod.

[0037] It ~~should be obvious to the casual observer~~ has been determined by the applicant, as a result of testing with a model of the invention, that when the upper assembly is moved above the paper the lower assembly will follow beneath, and maintain the alignment of the punch die beneath the punch rod.

[0049] A still further embodiment is shown in Figures 6 and 6b. Referring next to this figure, the lever arm 5 contains an internal slide assembly 55, which ~~[[,]]~~ in turn ~~[[,]]~~ contains an oblong ~~[[,]]~~ or rectangular opening into which the top 13 of the punch rod is inserted. The punch rod is captured by the slide assembly ~~which~~ that engages the punch rod about the annular recess 22. ~~recessrecess~~ The top of the punch rod is inserted into the oblong slot 23 of the slide assembly by disposing the punch rod at an angle to the slide assembly, with the top 13 of the punch rod far enough into the oblong slot 23 so that the inside edge of the oblong slot is resting

against the annular recess 22. The punch rod may then be rotated into an upright position.

[0055] The lower assembly 32 contains a lower magnet 3 inserted so that the ~~magnet's~~ magnet's upper surface is flush with that of the lower assembly. In a similar way the upper magnet 2 is inserted and affixed to the upper assembly 34 so that the upper magnet's ~~magnet's~~ lower surface is flush with the lower surface of the upper assembly.